



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,764	11/04/2003	Richard Lauch	16462	6324
50659	7590	03/23/2006	EXAMINER	
BUTZEL LONG DOCKETING DEPARTMENT 100 BLOOMFIELD HILLS PARKWAY SUITE 200 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48304			KRUER, STEFAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3654	

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/700,764

Applicant(s)

LAUCH, RICHARD

Examiner

Stefan Krueer

Art Unit

3654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 – 7 and 9 - 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubishi (EP 1,148,018) in view of Hossler (US 2003/0094333).

Re: Claim 1, Mitsubishi discloses an elevator drive brake element (41) rotatable between a brake reset and brake released position, a handle (18a) attached to the brake element for rotation between the locked and unlocked positions, thereby placing the brake in the reset and released positions, respectively, and a means (46) for automatically restraining said drive brake element, and thereby said handle, from rotating to said released position.

Hossler, however, teaches his handle (41) that is rotatable between said brake reset and released positions and a selectively operated locking means (150, Fig. 2) for maintaining said handle in a locked and, thereby, said brake reset position. His locking means is "... a commercially available keyed plunger lock... used to ensure that the handle cannot be moved out of the locked position" (Page 2, Para. 0018).

In that handle-locking systems are known to industry, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Mitsubishi with the teaching of Hossler to provide a properly secured, manually actuated, emergency means for engaging/disengaging the brake.

Re: Claims 2 – 7 and 9 - 12, Hossler discloses said handle with a latch receiving aperture (42) and said locking means having a latching plunger (151) for releasably engaging said latch receiving aperture when said handle is in said locked position.

Whereas Mistubishi discloses a removable handle having an elongated arm and seated in his brake element, Hossler teaches his handle having an elongated arm and affixed to his brake element (Fig. 1).

Hossler teaches an elongated arm having a leading edge (Fig. 2) for actuating said latching plunger, in keeping with said "... commercially available keyed plunger lock...", said arm inherently having a rounded contour for contacting said latching plunger.

In that Hossler teaches said, "... commercially available keyed plunger lock... used to ensure that the handle cannot be moved out of the locked position" a key actuated lock cylinder is inherent.

Claims 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsubishi in view of Hossler, as applied to Claims 1 and 9, and in further view of Aulanko.

Though Mistubishi and Hossler are silent regarding a safety switch, attention is drawn to Aulanko who teaches "...a detector (71) ... which... can be connected to the elevator control system." (Col. 3, Line 29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the inventions of Mitsubishi and Hossler with the teaching of Aulanko to provide an interlock with the elevator control system to confirm the status of an emergency brake release system.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to **Claims 1 - 13** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stefan Kruer whose telephone number is 571.272.5913. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 09:00 - 18:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on 571.272.6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866.217.9197 (toll-free).

SHK 

15 Mar. 2006


KATHY MATECKI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600